



MEROPS PHRYGIUS.

THE EMBROIDERED MEROPS.



CHARACTER GENERICUS.

*Rostrum* curvatum, compressum, carinatum.

*Lingua* apice laciniata.

*Pedes* grefforii.

*Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 182.*

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CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

*Merops niger*, flavo varius.



GENERIC CHARACTER.

*Bill* curved, compressed, carinated, and sharp-pointed.

*Tongue* (generally) laciniated at the tip.

*Feet* grefforial, *i. e.* three toes forward and one backward;

and the three lower joints of the middle toe closely joined to those of the outmost.

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SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

Black Merops varied with yellow.

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THE bird figured in its natural size on the present plate is a species of Merops, or Bee-Eater; a tribe which appears to be peculiarly prevalent in the extensive regions of Australia, since more birds of this genus have been discovered than of any other, except the very numerous one of Pfittacus.

This species is readily distinguished by its remarkable colour from every other kind of Merops yet known. In its particular habits and manner of life it probably resembles the rest of its congeners; feeding chiefly on insects.